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Title: Need to set up an Armed Forces Medical College at Kozhikode in Kerala.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): It has been reported that a large number of vacancies of officers exist in the army. This will definitely jeopardise our defence preparedness. We should ensure more in-take, albeit through short service commission. The defence is also short of medical officers. I would suggest that the defence services should ensure to establish more Medical Colleges so that it can have better intake of medical officers. Kozhikode, my constituency is an ideal location to have one such college. It has sufficient defence land and additional government land is also available in the vicinity. With sea on one side and the Western Ghats on the other, it has all the ingredients for establishment of a defence institute. Besides it is also easily accessible by air, rail and road. In fact, there is no defence medical college in the south. So I urge that a medical college should be established at Kozhikode. I am sure the Government of Kerala would also extend all possible assistance required for the purpose.